

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A light guide plate comprising:

a first light guide layer having a first end on which light from a light source is incident, a second end opposite said first end and a first side between said first and second ends, said first light guide layer, made of a material having a refractive index n_1 ; and

a scattering light guide layer stacked on said first light guide layer first side for emitting light as scattering light,

~~the first light guide layer and the scattering light guide layer being stacked on each other,~~
wherein:

the scattering light guide layer includes (i) a second light guide layer made of a material having a refractive index n_2 lower than the refractive index n_1 , adjacent to the first light guide layer first side, and (ii) a scattering layer for scattering light propagating to the second light guide layer,

~~the first light guide layer includes, on an end surface opposite to a light guide surface on which the light is incident,~~ reflection means at said first light guide layer second end for changing which changes an angle of light propagating in the first light guide layer and reaching the second end surface, so that the light is incident on the scattering light guide layer, and

the first light guide layer causes total reflection of light, incident on the first light guide layer from the light source, at ~~(i) a surface on which the scattering light guide layer is formed and (ii) a rear surface~~ the first side and a second side opposite the first side.

2. (Currently amended) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first light guide layer includes on ~~the~~ a light guide first surface a light focusing optical element for focusing light incident on the first light guide layer in a certain range of angles with respect to the light guide first surface.

3. (Original) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the scattering layer and the second light guide layer are integrally formed.

4. (Original) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second light guide layer of the scattering light guide layer contains a light scattering object.

5. (Currently amended) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the scattering layer is constituted of depressions and projections formed on a surface of the second light guide layer, the surface being opposite to ~~a surface in contact with~~ the first light guide layer first side.

6. (Currently amended) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reflection means is disposed so that light incident on the reflection means is reflected at an angle smaller than an angle shown by $\sin^{-1}(n_2/n_1)$, with respect to a normal direction to ~~a surface on which the scattering light guide layer is formed~~ the first light guide layer first side.

7. (Original) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reflection means is a hologram.

8. (Currently amended) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein, the first light guide layer further includes ~~on the surface opposite to a surface on which the scattering light guide layer is formed,~~ another scattering light guide layer on the second side.

9. (Original) The light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the scattering light guide layer further includes a reflection member on a surface opposite to a surface on which the first light guide layer is formed.

10. (Previously presented) A lighting apparatus comprising a light guide plate as set forth in Claim 1, and a light source for irradiating the first light guide layer of the light guide plate with light.

11. (Currently amended) The lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the light source is so placed that an incident angle of the light incident on the first light guide layer with respect to the light guide first surface of the first light guide layer falls in a predetermined range.

12. (Currently amended) The lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the light source includes a light focusing optical element for focusing the light incident on the first light guide layer of the light guide plate, so that the light is focused in a certain range of angles with respect to ~~a stacking surface~~ the first side of the light guide plate.

13. (Original) The lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein the light focusing optical element is a cylindrical lens.

14. (Currently amended) The lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the light guide plate includes a plurality of the first light guide layer on the second light guide layer ~~which are~~, said plurality of said first light guide layers being placed so that their light guide surfaces of the plurality of said first light guide layers are opposed with a certain interval therebetween, and the light source is provided between the light guide surfaces.

15. (Original) The lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a mirror for guiding the light from the light source to the first light guide layer.

16. (Previously presented) A flat light source apparatus comprising a plurality of the lighting apparatus as set forth in claim 10, the lighting apparatuses being placed side by side.

17. (Original) The flat light source apparatus as set forth in claim 16, wherein reflection means of one of two lighting apparatuses is opposed to reflection means of another lighting apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) A display apparatus comprising the light guide plate as set forth in claim 1.

19. (New) The light guide plate of claim 1 wherein said second side is parallel to said first side.

20. (New) The light guide plate of claim 1 wherein said first end includes a first surface through which light from a light source enters said first light guide layer and wherein said reflection means is obliquely angled with respect to said first surface.

21. (New) A light guide plate comprising:

a first light guide layer having first and second ends, the first end including a first surface through which light from a light source enters the first light guide layer, the second end including a second, reflecting, surface obliquely angled with respect to said first surface, and first and second sides between said first and second ends, the first light guide layer having a first refractive index;

a scattering light guide layer stacked on said first light guide layer first side for emitting light as scattered light, the scattering light guide layer comprising a second light guide layer having a second refractive index less than said first refractive index and a scattering layer;

wherein the first light guide layer causes total reflection of light at the second, reflecting, surface and at the second side.

22. (New) The light guide plate of claim 21 wherein said first and second sides are parallel.